

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. - 5. (CANCELED).**

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A tape cutting method to cut out tape from a pancake, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating combinations of winding lengths of a tape which can be wound without including defect portions and with the least waste from a pancake, wherein said calculations are based on a plurality of winding lengths set in advance and position data of said defect portions of said tape in said pancake recorded in advance;

calculating a ratio of usable tape from said pancake based on the combinations of the winding lengths calculated by said calculation step;

deciding whether or not the pancake is usable based on said ratio calculating step, and

cutting unusable tape from the pancake when the pancake is determined to be usable.

**7. - 11. (CANCELED).**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.312  
U.S. Application No. 10/687,609

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The tape cutting-out ~~equipment~~ method according to claim 6,  
wherein said tape is a magnetic tape.

**13. - 17. (CANCELED).**

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The tape cutting-out ~~equipment~~ method according to claim 6,  
wherein said tape is an optical recording tape.

**19. (CANCELED).**